Anti-terror law invoked in attempted theft incident

By Our Correspondent

DADU: Eight unknown suspects were booked under Anti-Terrorism Act, besides relevant sections of the Pakistan Penal Code, for attempting to steal oil from a Parco pipeline near Sehwan on Monday.

Acting upon an information provided by some residents of the Allah Warayo Gaincho village, the Sehwan police rushed to the specified area but found only an abandoned tractor-driven trolley and some tools ostensibly brought there to draw the oil from the pipeline and fill it in a container. The police team conducted a search of the area but could not trace out the suspects.

In the meantime, a Parco security officer, Mohammad Haroon Bhatti, went to the police station to lodge an FIR nominating a landlord and three of his associates, along with four unknown persons, as the suspects.

The police booked them under certain sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act and Sections 34, 379, 427 and 462-B of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

Suspect held for attacking groom with axe

By Our Correspondent

BADIN: A man was arrested after he attacked a groom with an axe and critically injured him soon after the Nikah in Chak-44 of Fazil Rahu taluka in Badin district, police said on Monday.

The axe used in the crime, committed a day earlier, was seized from him, they added.

Officials at the Fazil Rahu police station linked the murder attempt to an old dispute involving families of the victim, Ghulam Rasool Pusio, and the arrested suspect, Mir Khan Pusio.

The FIR was registered under Section 324 (attempt to murder) of the Pakistan Penal Code on the complaint of the victim.

The groom stated that he was on his way to a mosque within the village for thanksgiving after his Nikah when the suspect attacked him.

The victim was taken to the Fazil Rahu Taluka Hospital for emergency treatment and later referred to the Hyderabad Civil Hospital due to his critical condition.

Book highlighting Benazir's courage in taking on a dictator discussed at HLF

Author Farhatullah Babar unveils threats and backchannel diplomacy during Musharraf regime

By Mohammad Hussain Khan

A SCENE from the play *Peace*, staged during the festival on Monday.—INP

HYDERABAD: *Benazir Bhutto: She Walked into the Fire*, a book written by Farhatullah Babar, was discussed at a session held on the second and last day of the Hyderabad Literature Festival on Monday.

Babar, who served as the spokesman and speech writer of assassinated prime minister Benazir Bhutto, revealed that how military dictator General Pervez Musharraf used his powers to stop her from returning home before the 2007 general elections and how daringly she challenged him.

"She was conveyed a message through me that she must not return to Pakistan until 2007; and that opposing [Gen] Musharraf will not be tolerated. He conveyed to her that it will be beneficial to her future political life [not to return home before the elections]. She was warned that if she didn't cooperate, then they would do what they have decided to do," said Babar.

Junaid Ansari moderated the session, where publisher of the book Ameena Saiyid and noted journalist Ghazi Salahuddin also spoke.

Babar said Benazir walked into the fire although [her spouse] Asif Ali Zardari and other party leaders advised her against it. "Musharraf told her she can come but after the polls. But she insisted that she will return before the elections," he said.

Joining the conversation, Ghazi Salahuddin opined that perhaps no politician demonstrated the courage Benazir did, despite facing trial and tribulations, intrigues and enmity. So, she could not have been prevented [from taking her own decisions] by anything other than what finally happened on Dec 27, 2007.

Ghazi took the conversation to an important part of the book while referring to secret backchannel contact between some US-based individuals and the author.

Ms Saiyid shared her interaction with the assassinated leader in London in July 2007. "I attended her programme where she invited me for a dinner. I went there and she quite enthusiastically offered me *aam ka juice* and *mithaee* from Karachi. This made me feel how badly she missed her country. She returned home to struggle for democracy, finally. She was just fearless," she said.

Backchannel

Continuing, Babar told the moderator that he received an email from an American citizen of Pakistani origin, disclosing that policymakers in US wanted to set up a commission to banish terrorism in Pakistan and improve Pakistan-India ties. "The email revealed how they wanted to ask her to join the commission in the backdrop. She asked me why he [the American] mailed this to me directly when she herself knows him well as he has access to the White House, State Department and Pentagon," Babar said. Actually, he said, what was important was that a message from US was being given in 2001 to prevent her from returning home before 2007. And they wanted her to cooperate with Gen Musharraf without joining his government. She was told "not to destabilise the regime".

He said that the message was true because she could not return before 2007… and something always happened. "They [the mediators] said they will improve Pakistan-India relations and they also simultaneously mentioned that Musharraf has consented," he said.

Babar recalled this backchannel talks were taking place in December but in June 2001 Musharraf had already met Vajpayee in a one-on-one meeting and after that, no statement was issued either from the Pakistan or Indian foreign office. "Nobody knows about this exclusive meeting," he said.

Musharraf's Kahmir formula

Farhatullah Babar said that improvement in Pakistan-India ties was disclosed in Dec 2001 and Musharraf had himself announced in 2002 his four-point formula for Kashmir. "This means what was mentioned about her return till 2007 proved correct. They mentioned that their priority was not that polls are held and democracy restored. The priority was to combat terrorism. And remember, in case polls would have held, then she would not have participated in them. People then saw she didn't participate in 2002 polls," Babar argued.

He pointed out the emails, documentary evidence and Benazir's conversations are part of the book. "Another aspect about Pakistan's democracy is that messages received from the capital of another country manipulate democracy in Pakistan," he said.

He said this book raises the question that if 2001-2007 script for Benazir Bhutto was written abroad, which proved correct, then it leads to the question whether the Dec 27, 2007 script was also written in advance, and who wrote it.

Babar also revealed that how Benazir Bhutto hosted Nawaz Sharif at her residence on Dec 15, 2007 and this meeting remained unreported where he was present. "She asked Nawaz what should be done about this off and on abrogation of the Constitution. I saw Nawaz's face turning red, and he interrupted her. Nawaz said he is pondering over it for quite some time and I [Nawaz] have concluded. This prompted me to start jotting down note in his diary as history was in the making. Nawaz noticed me and said: "Babar Saheb! '*ae nahi likhna*". This also forced Benazir Bhutto to tell him: "FB! did I ask you to write. No, I didn't ask you".

"She put the query to Nawaz, who took a plate and said: I will go and tell them to keep your Constitution; I am going. Nawaz said I will leave the country, but I can't endure this ting. Benazir told Mian Saheb that this will not work…we will have to find a solution," Babar said.

Had she been alive, he said, she would have taken steps to check the elements who abrogated the Constitution, regardless of the fact that she succeeded. "She was a politician when she went into exile, but she had become a stateswoman, when she returned home," Babar remarked.

Process to ascertain age of 'Mohenjo-Daro coins' green-lit

By Our Correspondent

LARKANA: The Technical Consultative Committee (TCC) of National Fund for Mohenjo-Daro has finally given a green signal to examine and ascertain the age of a bunch of coins discovered in November 2023 from the historic site, it was learnt on Monday.

"The hoard of coins discovered in 2023 is under conservation, and the results would be published once the process is completed," said the secretary of the technical committee which met at Mohenjo-Daro on Saturday (Jan 17).

The coins weighing 5,550 gram stuffed in an earthen pot were discovered during the repair and restoration work on the western side of the SD-area of the stupa from Divinity Street of Mohenjo-Daro on Nov 16, 2023.

The director general of Archaeology and Antiquities, Abdul Fatah Shaikh, who is also a member of the committee, told *Dawn* that the TCC had decided to shift the coins to the Karachi lab of the department.

Experts from different institutions, including the Department of Chemistry of the University of Karachi, would jointly study the coins from different angles, he said, adding that within one month they would submit a report, along with their findings and opinion. As soon as the study would be completed, the coins would be returned to the Mohenjo-Daro site, he said.

On a few coins blurred pictures (not clearly seen with the naked eye) appeared when they were washed. But no one with authority, sans proper and complete treatment adopting scientific procedures, could tell in which period they were in use.

Which period they belonged to was a question of prime importance, said Ali Haidar Gadhi, former conservationist who had served at Mohenjo-Daro for a long period.

But he did not rule out the possibility of connecting those coins with the Kushan period, pointing that R.D. Banerji discovered 2,000 coins, of them 338 belonged to Kushan Ruler Vasudeva-I.

Despite Mohenjo-Daro being declared as a Unesco Heritage site, there was no digital microscope available at its lab, sources said.

Dr Ghulam Mustafa Shar, TCC member and former head of the Department of Archaeology of Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur Mir's, was on record with the statement that 15 years ago, 1,600 identical coins were also discovered from 'Dhamrahojo-Daro' near Larkana.

The department with its efforts had then secured 50/60 coins from the villagers who had taken them away, he claimed. He said that those coins belonged to the Kushan period.

Dr Altaf Aseem, another TCC member, told this reporter that in a significant development for cultural preservation, the authorities had decided to submit a comprehensive scheme to the government for the upgrade and extension of the museum.

The proposed plan aimed at expanding the museum facilities to accommodate the display of a big number of various artifacts currently with the committee in the store of collection, he added.

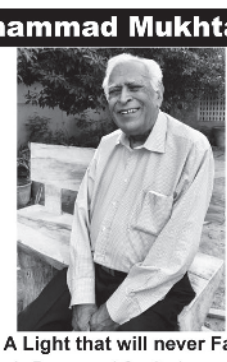
A key component of the scheme includes upgrade of the laboratory in accordance with Unesco standards. Officials believe this will prove beneficial for the preservation of cultural heritage and public engagement.

To Allah we belong and to Him is our return

Chehlum Fateha & Remembrance

for our beloved husband, father and grandfather

Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar Ahmed



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Sealed quotations are invited from interested Parties / Authorized Agents, as per following details:

Sr. #	Ref. No.	Description	Qty.	Submission Date
1	FP-33/ PR-25494-26	**SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF ROD ARRESTER** Offer on F.O.R / CFR basis	**01 Lot.**	10.02.2026

Tender(s) must be submitted on the submission date by 15:00hrs and the opening will be carried out at 15:30hrs on the respective submission date. Interested bidders may obtain complete tender documents, containing specifications and Terms & Conditions on payment of Tender Fee Rs.500/- (Non-refundable), against each tender through Pay Order/Demand Draft in favour of **M/s. Peoples Steel Mills Ltd, Karachi** against a written request on their Company's letterhead. Companies wishing to receive documents through courier must add extra Rs.100/- in shape of Pay Order/Demand Draft.

CORRIGENDUM

Reference tender published in the "Daily Dawn" and the "Daily Jang" Karachi on **15.12.2025** and **29.12.2025**. Please note that the opening date for the following tender has been re-scheduled as under, while all other Terms and Conditions of tender will remain the same.

Ref. No.	Description	Submission Date	Revised Submission Date
FP-88/ PR-25492-25	I) ENTRY GUIDE II) 5 ROLLER GUIDE Offer on F.O.R / CFR basis.	20.01.2026	**11.02.2026**
FP-88/ PR-1708-25	SEMI AUTOMATIC BAND SAW MACHINE Offer on CFR basis.	22.01.2026	**06.02.2026**

NOTE: The Tender Notice is also available at **www.ppra.org.pk** and **www.psmltd.com.**

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